## Message Text

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S/S: MR. BRIDGES
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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 183580 TOSEC 190104

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FROM EAGLEBURGER AND ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR

SUBJECT: SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS TUESDAY, JULY 27 ON COMMODITIES

- 1. THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IS HOLDING HEARINGS ON THE THREE COMMODITY ARRANGEMENTS -- COFFEE, TIN AND WHEAT ON TUESDAY, AND HAS WRITTEN TO THE DEPARTMENT REQUESTING THAT WE MAKE BOTH JULES KATZ AND JOAN BRADEN AVAILABLE. JULES IS OUR BEST TECHNICAL WITNESS ON THE AGREEMENTS, AND HE WILL TESTIFY. WE RAISE WITH YOU THE ISSUE WHETHER JOAN SHOULD ALSO APPEAR.
- 2. THERE IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE OF VIEW BETWEEN JOAN AND JULES ON THE MERITS OF THE AGREEMENTS. SHE MIGHT HOWEVER BE PRESSED TO ADMIT THAT SHE WOULD NOT HAVE SUPPORTED THE COFFEE PROMOTION FUND PROVIDED FOR IN THE COFFEE AGREEMENT, FOR EXAMPLE. THIS ILLUSTRATES THE DIFFICULTY; THIS KIND OF TESTIMONY COMES CLOSE TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ISSUE PRESENTED TO US IN THE PIKE DISPUTE -- SHOULD A

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIAL BE ASKED, OR PERMITTED, TO TESTIFY ABOUT ADVICE HE (OR SHE) GAVE YOU, OR WOULD HAVE GIVEN YOU.

- 3. THERE IS ALSO THE RELATED QUESTION OF HAVING TWO WITNESSES APPEAR FOR THE DEPARTMENT. THOUGH WE THINK THIS IS NOT A GOOD IDEA, BY AND LARGE, WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE TERRIBLY HARMFUL IN THIS INSTANCE. IN FACT, IF THE TESTIMONY OF THE TWO WERE UTTERLY CONSISTENT AND MUTUALLY REINFORCING, JOAN'S APPEARANCE WOULD PROBABLY EVEN HELP THE AGREEMENTS. THE FIRST ISSUE, HOWEVER -- THE ISSUE OF CONFIDENTIALITY OF ADVICE -- SEEMS TO US CONSTITUTIONAL.
- 4. WE MUST PRESERVE THE INTEGRITY OF THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS YOU CONDUCT WITH YOUR ADVISORS AND SUBORDINATES. ON THE OTHER HAND, IN THIS CASE, THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS ADVISOR IS A PECULIARLY PUBLIC POSITION, WITH HIGH VISIBILITY, AND AN OFFICE WHOSE CREDENTIALS ARE, SOME WOULD SAY, AS RESPECTED AS THE EXTENT TO WHICH HE (OR SHE) SPEAKS OUT IN PUBLIC. BUT WHEN HE(OR SHE)TAKES INDEPENDENT POSITIONS AND DIFFERS FROM FINAL DEPARTMENTAL DECISIONS, THIS CANNOT CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO THE MORALE OF THE OTHER OFFICERS, NOR TO THEIR WILLINGNESS TO KEEP THEIR OWN ADVICE ON ISSUES TO THEMSELVES.
- 5. JOAN TENDS TO SEE THIS AS A TEST OF HOW THE DEPARTMENT CONCEIVES HER OFFICE. AND IT IS NOT ENTIRELY IMPROBABLE THAT OUR DECISION, IF WE SO DECIDE, TO EXCUSE HER FROM TESTIFYING WOULD BE PICKED UP IN THE PRESS. ROBINSON

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